

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

The Title has been amended.

Claims 42-61 stand rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-38 of USP 6,186,553. This rejection has been obviated by the Terminal Disclaimer filed December 10, 2003.

Claims 62-64 are newly presented for consideration and allowance. These new claims, which find support in the application as originally filed at least at paragraphs [0009]-[0011], [0038]-[0053], Figs 7-8, and claims 40-41 (see published application US 2003/0173771 A1), are allowable at least for the reasons that claims 42-61 are allowable.

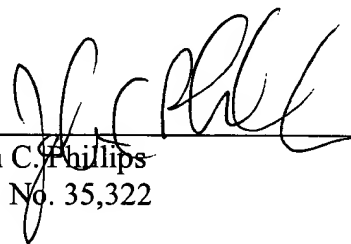
The foregoing comments made with respect to positions taken by the Examiner are not to be construed as acquiescence by the applicant with other positions of the Examiner that have not been explicitly contested. Accordingly, applicant's arguments for patentability of a claim should not be construed as implying that there are not other good reasons for patentability of that claim or other claims.

In view of the foregoing, this application is now in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/7/04

  
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